BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 12-38 September 21st, 2012

- **BC inflation rate eases to 1.0% in August, as shelter prices decrease**
- **In 2011, 57% of BC's young adults, aged 20 to 24, lived in a parental home**
- **Number of EI recipients in BC down 0.9% in July**

Prices

- **British Columbia's year-over-year inflation rate inched down 0.1 percentage points to 1.0% in August.** Lower shelter costs (-0.7%), tempered the overall rate, as prices for owned accommodations declined 1.8%, counteracting a 1.2% rise for rented accommodation. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), excluding shelter, was up 1.8% in August.

  Food bills were 2.3% higher as the cost of meals at restaurants rose 2.2% and the price of groceries was up 2.4%. Energy costs (+2.2%) were also on the rise. Increases in the cost of electricity (+5.7%), water (+6.3%) and fuel oil (+6.5%) were moderated by lower prices for natural gas (-7.6%), leaving the cost of household utilities 1.6% higher than in the same month of 2011.

  Transportation costs rose 2.0% in August, as the climb in the price of fuelling (+2.9%), maintaining (+3.1%) and insuring (+5.2%) a vehicle more than offset decreases in the cost of public (-0.5%) and inter-city (-1.1%) transport.

  British Columbians were forced to dig deeper into their wallets for household furnishings & equipment (+3.3%) as well as clothing & footwear (+3.3%) and health & personal care (+0.6%) products. Prices for medicinal & pharmaceutical products, however, continued to fall in August (-2.2%).

  The inflation rate in Vancouver (+1.4%) was higher than the provincial average, while the inflation rate in Victoria (+0.9%) was slightly lower. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The nation's inflation rate eased to 1.2% in August, marking the second consecutive month of year-over-year abatements.** Lower prices for clothing & footwear (-1.2%) managed to slow inflation despite rising prices for food (+2.2%), shelter (+1.0%) and transportation (+1.8%). Along with New Brunswick, Ontario and Alberta, BC (each +1.0%) boasted the lowest rate among the provinces, while residents in Quebec (+2.0%) faced the highest. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Wholesale sales were off again in July, falling 0.5%, (seasonally *adjusted*) following a slip in June (-0.1%).** Canadian sales were also weaker (-0.6%), with only four provinces recording increases in wholesaling activities. A 1.4% drop in Ontario had the biggest impact on the national decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of Employment Insurance (EI) claimants receiving regular benefits in British Columbia declined (-0.9% *seasonally adjusted*) to 54,860 in July.** At the national level, an estimated 507,970 Canadians received regular EI benefits, 0.2% fewer than in June. The most substantial decrease in the number of claimants was registered in PEI (-5.0%), while Alberta (+8.7%) saw the largest jump in beneficiaries.

  On a year-over-year basis, the number of EI recipients in BC has declined 10.4% (6,370 fewer people receiving regular benefits) since July 2011. With the exception of Manitoba, all other provinces also recorded substantial de-

Report | No report this issue

Did you know...

In 2009, Canada's underground economy activity was estimated at a potential $35 billion.

Source: Statistics Canada

clines over the 12-month period.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Family Make-up

- **The Census counted 1,238,155 families in British Columbia in 2011, a rise of 6.6% over the previous census in 2006, and above the national average (+5.5%).** Families were comprised of 72% married couples, 13% common-law couples, and 15% lone-parent families. Children were present in 52% of families headed by married couples, and 34% of common-law couple families. Same-sex partnerships accounted for 1.0% of all couples in BC, up from 0.7% in 2006, slightly higher than the national average (0.8%). The average number of persons per census family was 2.8. *Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011*

- **Of couples with children (464,800), 89% were intact families (where all children are the biological and/or adopted children of both spouses or common-law partners), and 11% were stepfamilies.** Simple stepfamilies, where one spouse is the biological or adoptive parent of all children in the family, made up 60% of all stepfamilies, while 40% of stepfamilies were complex stepfamilies, which include children from preceding relationships of one or both parent(s), and/or a child of both parents.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011

- **There were 1,764,635 private households in 2011.** Twenty-eight percent of them were one person households, 35% were two person households, and 15.0% were three person households. The Census counted 563,775 young adults (aged 20 to 29 years) in private households, with 41% residing in parental homes. Of young adults aged 20 to 24, 57% lived in a parental home, compared to 26% of 25 to 29-year-olds.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011

Science & Technology

- **Federal government spending on science and technology (S&T) is expected to be over $10.9 billion in the 2012/2013 fiscal year, accounting for 4.3% of total federal spending.** Intended S&T expenditure is notably lower (-5.9%) than in 2011/2012, when spending topped $11.6 billion. Over $6.9 billion (64% of federal S&T spending) is intended for research and development (R&D) with the remaining dollars (nearly $4.0 billion) allocated for related scientific activities (RSA) such as data collection and information services.

  Almost all ($5.9 billion) of the R&D expenditures are expected to be in the natural sciences, with most going to federal government departments and agencies ($2.2 billion) or higher education institutions ($2.4 billion). However, federal expenditures on related scientific activities will be more evenly distributed between natural sciences ($2.3 billion) and social sciences ($1.7 billion). Of the $4.0 billion spent on RSA, $2.9 billion will fund intramural activities performed by the federal government.

  It is estimated that in 2012/13, there will be approximately 37,400 federal personnel engaged in S&T activities, a 4.0% decrease over the previous year (38,900).

Data Source: SC Cat. No.88-204-XIE

Health

- **Between 2009 and 2011, nearly a third (32%, or an estimated 1.6 million) of Canadian children aged five to seventeen were classified as overweight (20%) or obese (12%).** The percentage of those who were overweight was similar across age groups. However, the prevalence of obesity differed significantly between boys and girls (15.1% and 8.0%, respectively). Among children aged 5 to 11, the percentage of boys who were obese (19.5%) was more than three times that of girls (6.3%).

Data Source: SC Cat. No.82-003-XIE

***Infoline** Issue: 12-38*
September 21st, 2012

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline

September 21, 2012
Issue 12-38

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,606.5	1.0
Canada	34,755.6	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jul 2012	3,203	0.6
Merchandise Exports - Jul 2012	2,590	0.8
Retail Sales - Jun 2012	5,089	-1.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Aug 2012)		
BC	1.0	1.7
Vancouver	1.4	1.9
Victoria	0.9	1.6
Canada	1.2	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug 2012	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	14.9	
Labour Force - BC	2,488.3	0.3
Employed - BC	2,322.6	0.6
Unemployed - BC	165.7	-3.9
		Jul 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.7	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.3	7.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Sep 19/2012	Sep 21/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.10	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.19
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Sep 19/2012	Sep 21/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9745	0.9986
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0262	0.9941
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug 2012	
BC	850.66	1.3
Canada	874.01	4.1

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Open Data, Census Area Profiles

Here's where you can get at the datasets for all areas, large and small. We'll be adding more as 2011 Census data are released, as well as additional historical tables – so keep coming back! See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Key Indicators

A new way to stay current!. We've added a page to put the latest highlights and summary figures at your fingertips.-See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/KeyIndicators.aspx

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx

Follow @BCStats on Twitter

The central statistical agency of the Province of BC is regularly updating and interacting on the Twitter social media platform – connect with us:
https://twitter.com/#!/bcstats

New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Consumer Price Index, August 2012

Released next week

- Business Indicators (Data Tables), Sept 2012

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca